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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/759,523	01/16/2004	Paul Anthony Thomas	60130-1987;03MRA0008	7042

26096 7590 06/29/2005

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EXAMINER

KING, BRADLEY T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3683

DATE MAILED: 06/29/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/759,523

Applicant(s)

THOMAS ET AL.

Examiner

Bradley T. King

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 April 2005.
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 4-12 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 4-12 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 4 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by the admitted prior art of figures 1-4.

The admitted prior art of figures 1-4 disclose all the limitations of the instant claims including; a brake caliper having an outboard side; a brake pad 36; a pad spring 24 including a spring planar region and a rounded edge (a rounded edge is inherently created when elements 46 are folded over as disclosed); and a pad retainer 26 including a retainer planar region having a first radius for engagement with said spring planar region of the pad spring to restrain radial movement of the brake pad, wherein the pad retainer is secured to the outboard side of the brake caliper at a second radius that is less than the first radius (see figure 2), the pad retainer further including a crook (see figure 4) at an end of the retainer planar region, wherein a part (the region between and including elements 46) of the spring planar region engages the pad retainer, and a lateral edge region of the part of the spring planar region adjacent to the outboard side of the brake caliper is rounded (at elements 46)

Regarding claim 4, see figure 3.

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Regarding claim 9, it is maintained that the radius of the rounded edge created by bent portions 46 will inherently be of similar radius, as broadly recited, due to the similar thickness of the spring and the retainer. See figure 4 which shows the crook having a small radius. Regions 46 are also "adjacent" the crook as broadly recited.

Claims 1 and 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by EP 0 248 385.

EP 0 248 385 discloses all the limitations of the instant claims including; a brake caliper having an outboard side; a brake pad 70; a pad spring 76 including a spring planar region and a rounded edge (at element 86, see figure 6); and a pad retainer 60 including a retainer planar region having a first radius for engagement with said spring planar region of the pad spring to restrain radial movement of the brake pad, wherein the pad retainer is secured to the outboard side of the brake caliper at a second radius that is less than the first radius (see figure 3), the pad retainer further including a crook (see figure 3) at an end of the retainer planar region, wherein a part (the region between and including elements 86) of the spring planar region engages the pad retainer, and a lateral edge region of the part of the spring planar region adjacent to the outboard side of the brake caliper is rounded (at elements 86)

Regarding claim 4, see figure 4.

Regarding claim 5, the pad spring further includes radially outwardly curved ends that retain the pad spring on the backplate. See figure 4.

Regarding claim 6, the backplate includes complementary curved surfaces for abutment with the radially outwardly curved ends of the pad spring. See figure 4.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the admitted prior art of Figures 1-4.

The admitted prior art of figures 1-4 disclose all the limitations of the instant claims with exception to the specific crook radius dimension. It is noted that the instant disclosure fails to indicate any criticality in the dimension and further teaches that the ranges may be broadened. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize various crook radii depending on the size of the brake assembly and thickness of the retainer to facilitate manufacture (thicker materials will bend to greater radii) and reduce stress concentrations in the element. Also note, *In Gardner v. TEC Systems, Inc.*, 725 F.2d 1338, 220 USPQ 777 (Fed. Cir. 1984), cert. denied, 469 U.S. 830, 225 USPQ 232 (1984).

Claims 1, 4-8 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over EP 0 703 378.

EP 0 703 378 discloses an assembly including; a brake caliper having an outboard side; a brake pad 12; a pad spring 26 including a spring planar region; and a pad retainer 32 including a retainer planar region having a first radius for engagement with said spring planar region of the pad spring to restrain radial movement of the brake pad, wherein the pad retainer is secured to the outboard side of the brake caliper at a second radius that is less than the first radius (see figure 3), the pad retainer further including a crook (see figure 3) at an end of the retainer planar region, wherein a part of the spring planar region engages the pad retainer. EP 0 703 378 lacks the lateral edge region of the part of the spring planar region adjacent to the outboard side of the brake caliper being rounded. The examiner takes official notice that it is well known to round the edges of sheet metal elements to remove sharp edges. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to round the edges of the spring of EP 0 703 378 to reduce the sharpness of the edge, thereby increase safety in the assembling and handling of the device.

Regarding claims 7-8, see figure 1.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 4/06/2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Regarding the admitted prior art, the claim language define the location of the rounded edge by "a part" and "a region". It is maintained that the portions between and including elements 46 of the prior art can be interpreted as "a part" and "region" as broadly defined by the claim language.

Regarding the 103 rejection based on EP 0 703 378, please note the Official notice and rationale provided in the rejection above.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bradley T. King whose telephone number is (571) 272-7117. The examiner can normally be reached on 11:00-7:30 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles Marmor can be reached on (571) 272-7095. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

BTK

Robert A. Siconolfi 6/27/05
ROBERT A. SICONOLFI
PATENT EXAMINER